Decontrolling the Prices of Dilosyn etc.

634. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Nav Bharat Times" of 8th February, 1988 captioned 'Mehingi Ho Gai Dawaian';

(b) if so, whether Government have decontrolled the prices of Dilosyn, Benadryl, Celin and many other medicines under the Drugs Price Control Order 1987;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these medicines have an annual sales turnover between one crore to six crore each; and

(d) if so, what is the justification for such decontrol and increase in prices of medicines used by the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Formulations Dilosyn, Benadryl and Celin are price decontrolled as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(c) Sales turnover of formulations is not monitored.

(d) Dilosyn and Benadryl are based on bulk drugs Methdilazine and Diphenhydramine respectively which were not included by the Kelkar Committee in the list of Category II bulk drugs recmmended for price control. Celin being a single ingredient, vitamin formulation is exempted from price control. Manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are free to revise the prices of their products as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. However, a watch is being kept on prices of decontrolled medicines also.

Mechanism for Monitoring the Prices of Medicines

635. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced in December, 1986 to set up an effective mechanism for the monitoring of the prices of decontrolled medicines under the measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the decontrolled medicines where price increase has come to the notice of Government during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To the extent available, the details of increase in the prices of non-scheduled formulations after the announcement of DPCO, 1987, are given in the Statement at annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 26].

Rise in the Prices of Medicines

636. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of a number of decontrolled medicines have gone up from 50 per cent to 200 per cent during the last one month or so;

(b) if so, what is the justification for such a steep increase; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the poor consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The extent of in-

crease in the prices of non-scheduled formulations varies from case to case.

(b) and (c) The increase is mainly due to increase in the cost of raw material and packing materials where the earlier price was fixed long time back under the DPCO, 1979. Government is constantly monitoring the prices of de-controlled drugs and under the DPCO, 1987 has the right to bring within control any such drug should it be considered necessary to do so.

Prices of single ingredient vitamins

637. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of single ingredient vitamin branded formulations have increased the prices from 50 per cent to 150 per cent during last one month;

(b) if so, what are the names of brands of such formulations;

(c) what was the earlier price of each before DPCO, 1987 and what is the present price;

(d) what is the percentage increase in each case; and

(e) what is the justification for such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The required details to the extent available are given in the attached Statement at annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 27].

(e) The increase in prices is mainly due to increase in cost of input materials. Producers of these medicines are free to revise their prices as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Pending applications for LPG in Gujarat

638. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of applications are pending for the supply of cooking gas in Gujarat at present;

(b) if so, how many applications are pending for the supply of cooking gas in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn to provide cooking gas connections to the applicants in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The waiting list for new LPG connections as on 1st January, 1988 in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot was around 106,300, 19,500, 50,500 and 28,700 respectively.

(c) and (d) Release of new LPG connections is done by the oil industry all over the country, including Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Rajkot, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG and bottling capacity.

Different prices of LPG in various Cities

639. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cooking gas is higher in Ahmedabad than that in Delhi at present;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and